GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:583
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2016
Talks with Pakistan
Chandumajra Shri Prem Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to postpone bilateral talks with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the basis thereof and whether Pakistan has been constantly involved in anti-India activities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether India has decided to adopt new policy towards Pakistan and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (d) During the visit of External Affairs Minister to Islamabad for the fifth Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia, Istanbul Process on Afghanistan on 9 December 2015 and after her bilateral meetings on sidelines with the leadership of Pakistan and with the Foreign Affairs Advisor to Prime Minister of Pakistan, both sides agreed to a Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue to address all outstanding issues. Foreign Secretaries were asked to finalize the modalities of the Dialogue.

However, Pathankot Air Base attack in January 2016 brought to the fore new challenges. Government is in touch with Government of Pakistan in this regard. A Joint Investigation Team from Pakistan visited India in end-March 2016 to collect evidence necessary for prosecuting those guilty in Pakistan. In his meeting with Foreign Secretary of Pakistan on sidelines of Senior Officials Meeting of the Heart of Asia, Istanbul Process on Afghanistan in New Delhi on April 26, 2016, Foreign Secretary had suggested reviewing the progress of investigation. It was also clearly conveyed to Pakistan that it cannot be in denial on anti-India terrorism emanating from territory under its control.